

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November 20, 2012

PLACE: Lower Level Conference Room

PRESENT:	Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	Eric Chin
	Chris Leroux	Kathleen Mills	Karen O'Farrell
	Larry Preo	Andrew Hirsch	Kumares Sinha
	Larry Wood		

VISITORS:	Ben Anderson	Kristi Smith	Michael Susong
------------------	--------------	--------------	----------------

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. Chairman Sinha made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 17th meeting. Ms. Burch seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

Roundabouts: Chairman Sinha stated he had received several questions and comments regarding roundabouts in the city. Chairman Sinha brought up a newspaper article that appeared in the Journal and Courier recently stating there had been four accidents and all were personal injury. Mr. Buck explained that was a typo and there have been no personal injuries reported as a result of the roundabout accidents. A correction was issued on the city's website.

Mr. Hirsch asked if there was any information related to increased traffic flow in the roundabouts that could be compared yet. Mr. Buck stated there has not been any type of traffic study done to date. Chairman Sinha stated there would soon be a group of undergraduate students from Purdue that will conduct a traffic study to take speed measurements, observe how closely people follow while in the roundabout and to look at pedestrian safety. Mr. Buck stated there have been 12 accidents at the Yeager Road and Northwestern Avenue roundabout to date. Mr. Leroux stated he thinks a lot of the accidents that have occurred are due to vehicles not slowing down enough before entering the roundabout, or yielding when they should not be and causing vehicles to be hit from behind.

Mr. Buck stated he has reached out to the state BMV office to see if the instructors giving driving tests will discuss in depth how to navigate a roundabout during driving tests. Mr. Hirsch brought up the idea of doing a YouTube video showing how to drive a roundabout. Mr. Buck stated the city has an animated video showing how to drive a roundabout available on the city's website, as well as a video showing how pedestrians should use the roundabout.

The speed limit has been lowered from 45 mph to 35 mph between Yeager Road and Northwestern Avenue. A project to install curbs and sidewalks next summer will help to urbanize that area and hopefully keep speeds down. Ms. Burch asked if there were plans for any other roundabouts in the city. Mr. Buck stated the roundabout at Manchester and Cumberland is now open, and the roundabout at Yeager and Cumberland is scheduled to open tomorrow.

Ms. Mills asked about the temporary lighting near Friendship House near the roundabout at Manchester and Cumberland. Mr. Buck stated permanent lighting has been ordered, but has not come in yet. Permanent lighting will be installed soon and the temporary lighting will come down. The same will be done for the roundabout at Cumberland and Yeager.

Update on Current Projects:

- Yeager Road, Phase I: Construction from Northwestern to US 52 is done and the road is open. There is still some clean-up work to be done, specifically cleaning up the trees and that will be done as weather permits.
- Kalberer Road North: Curbs have been installed and paving should begin soon. The goal is to get some pavement down and the road open in some form before the asphalt plants close for the winter. Sidewalks and trails will be done in the spring.
- Cumberland Avenue: Cumberland Avenue will open to traffic tomorrow. Native grasses and sod will be planted throughout the spring.

Update on Future Projects:

- Faith West: The project is currently under construction on Northwestern Avenue.
- 720 Northwestern: Final detailed plans have been submitted to the City Engineer's office and are in the process of being reviewed. Once they are reviewed, permits will be issued.
- Wang Hall: This project will be starting back up in the spring. A tentative completion date is set for 2014.
- Meridian/Lindberg Water Main Improvements: Indiana American Water will be replacing a water main from Meridian Street up to Lindberg Road starting in February and lasting until May. This will impact traffic on the right hand, northbound lane.
- Lindberg/Yeager Curb and Sidewalk Improvements: From Lindberg north to Yeager the city is designing curb, sidewalk and crosswalk improvements at the Lindberg intersection and up to the Yeager roundabout. There will be sidewalk on the east side and trail on the west side.

Mr. Buck stated there would be a lot of construction going on along Northwestern Avenue for a while due to all of the projects being built along this road. This will have an impact on traffic and a designated travel lane will be needed for northbound Northwestern. Chairman Sinha asked about traffic maintenance plans for these projects. Mr. Buck stated some have already been included in plan development plans, but these could be brought up to the commission to show what they will include. Mr. Buck recommended this be addressed at the January 22, 2013 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed 2013 Meeting Dates: Dates for 2013 meeting dates were discussed. The proposed meeting dates for 2013 are January 22nd, March 19th, May 21st, July 16th, September 17th, and November 19th. Mr. Buck stated we also have the option of adding additional meetings throughout the year if needed. The January 15th meeting was rescheduled to January 22nd at 5:00 pm. Mr. Leroux made a motion to approve the 2013 meeting dates. Ms. Burch seconded the motion and the dates were approved.

Pedestrian Crossing at US 52 and Win Hentschel Blvd: Ms. Mills asked Mr. Buck what one would need to do to get a pedestrian crossing installed at the intersection of US 52 and Win Hentschel Blvd. Mr. Buck stated that INDOT and the city would need to do a study and analysis to determine if a crossing would be needed.

ADA Meeting: Ms. O'Farrell asked if there was any feedback from the ADA public hearing held on November 15, 2012. Mr. Susong stated the public meeting went well. Mr. Buck stated two people spoke and several people had written in. This information will be compiled and the city's ADA consultant, David Meihls, will review and prepare a report that will go to the Board of Works in December.

Safety at Meridian/Grant: Chairman Sinha mentioned that a pedestrian was struck by a car at the intersection of Meridian and Grant Streets recently while walking across the street. Kristi Smith contacted the lady and she indicated she would attend the meeting to give her account of the incident; however, the pedestrian did not show up today. Thankfully, she was not seriously injured. Mr. Leroux stated there have been 3 crashes at this intersection since 2010 and this was the only pedestrian crash reported. Chairman Sinha asked Mr. Buck to look into this incident.

Traffic on Levee: Mr. Hirsch stated the traffic on the Levee has become increasingly worse. Specifically, traffic near the Williamsburg Apartments, is very congested. Mr. Hirsch wanted to know if there was anything that could be done. Mr. Buck thinks it may be due to the timing of the signals and them not being customized enough for that time of day. Eventually, the city will take over this road once INDOT opens US 231.

Ms. Mills made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hirsh seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, January 22, 2013, Lower Level Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Buck, P.E.
Public Works Director

DMB/ks